

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
November 2, 2007
Washington State Department of Ecology
Lacey, Washington

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, National Marine Sanctuary Program
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Reviewed by SAC Secretary

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent

Approved by SAC

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
November 2, 2007

Members Present:

Terrie Klinger, Research (Chair)
Mel Moon, Quileute Tribe
Fan Tsao, Conservative Alternate
Teresa Scott, Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Norm Davis, Washington Dept. of Ecology
Gene Woodwick, Education, Alternate
Ellen Matheny, Education
Al Hightower, Commercial Fishing
Kevin Ryan, US Fish & Wildlife
Bob Morse, Citizen-at-Large
John Calambokidis, Conservation Alternate
Steve Capps, NOAA Fisheries
Bob Bohlman, Marine Industry
Teresa Scott, Wash. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Rebecca Post, Wash Dept. of Ecology alternate
Roy Morris, Citizen-at-Large Alternate

Staff

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent
Andy Palmer, Coordinator
George Galasso, Asst. Mgr.
Bob Steelquist, Education Coordinator

Guests/Public Attendees:

John Veentjer, Marine Exchange
of Puget Sound
Karen Matsumoto, Seattle Aquarium
Dale Jensen, Wash. Dept of Ecology
Chip Boothe, Wash. Dept of Ecology
Jennifer Hagen, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Penny Dalton, Washington SeaGrant
Amy Jankowiak, Wash. Dept. of Ecology

Welcome

Terrie Klinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Dale Jenson, Washington Department of Ecology program manager for the Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program welcomed the advisory council to the Department's offices and gave an overview of the Spills and Prevention Program. He also introduced Chip Boothe, the new Preparedness Section chief.

Agenda/Meeting Minutes

Terrie Klinger noted that the agenda detail has a placeholder for an Intergovernmental Policy Council report, but the agenda does not. That is because it was only recently determined that the IPC report would not be made at this meeting. So the agenda as written is correct. The minutes of the May 2007 meeting were reviewed and adopted without any changes.

Washington Sea Grant presentation of the coastal research needs assessment

Penny Dalton, Director of the Washington State Sea Grant program, gave an overview of the history and the process of the initiative to develop a west coast regional plan for research priorities and information needs. The effort is being coordinated by three west coast sea grant programs, Washington, Oregon, and California. Penny summarized the experiences to date from

the meetings that have been held in Washington on the coast and in Puget Sound. She noted that Washington Sea Grant has a web site (URL) that any one can go to and give input on research needs. The web site will probably be up on the web until the end of December. Questions from AC members included the range of groups they have received input from as well as possible issues relating to developing a final plan that incorporates inputs from California and Oregon, states that might have different priorities than Washington. There was also some discussion about the challenge of combining priorities of Puget Sound and the outer coast. The council considered whether to try to produce a comment letter for the whole council, but decided to encourage members to submit individual comments instead.

OCNMS/Seattle Aquarium Ocean Literacy project presentation

Bob Steelquist described the history of NOAA's Ocean Literacy Project and the partnership with the Seattle Aquarium. The project is funded at \$600,000 for a five-year term building on successful teacher training programs developed by the Seattle Aquarium. Through this project, these programs are being adapted and moved out to coastal communities in or adjacent to the sanctuary. Karen Matsumoto of the Seattle Aquarium described that NOAA's Ocean Literacy Project came on line at the same time that the aquarium had just opened up a new exhibit – Window on Washington Waters – that focused on an area off of Cape Flattery within sanctuary waters. She described the past teacher training work that the aquarium has done. In 2008, they will be holding teacher trainings in outer coast communities in order to make it more affordable and accessible to them. They expect to reach 100 teachers a year with the program. The hope is that over the five years of the program, they will be able to engage every 4th and 5th grade teacher on the outer coast in the training. The focus will be on communities from Port Angeles around to Grays Harbor, which have been traditionally under-served by environmental training programs. Ellen Matheny offered her services to help with contacts with coastal school administrators to assist getting the program accepted by the districts.

Public Comment

No public comment was received. Terrie asked that the University of Washington Keystone graduate students who will be assisting the sanctuary on some of the work of the management plan review process as part of their graduate work introduce themselves. They are: Karin Harris, Sarah Reyneveld, Nikken Palesch, and Jill Harris.

Internal Affairs

Andy Palmer explained that the annual operating plan (AOP) that is normally previewed at the November meeting is not on the agenda due to the fact that no new sanctuary program budget has been adopted by Congress yet. Once a budget has been adopted and the OCNMS develops its site AOP, then the sanctuary advisory council will have an AOP before it to consider. Andy discussed the proposed advisory council meeting dates for 2008. These are based upon various other meetings that staff and advisory council members have over the year. It also factors in the needs of the MPR process. He noted that we will be voting on officers at the January meeting for 2008. He also will be asking the advisory council for suggestions on the West Coast regional

case study to be presented at the annual Chair/Coordinator's meeting in the spring. Terrie asked that we make a recommendation at the January meeting. Terrie acknowledged that this would be the last meeting for Citizen-at-large member Bob Morse and thanked him for all he has contributed to the advisory council over the years.

Management Plan Review update

Fan Tsao brought the council up to date on the work of the MPR scoping meetings workgroup. She described the initial conference call meetings the group has held so far. At the January meeting, the working group will present a set of recommendations for the scoping meetings for the advisory council to consider for adoption as recommendations to the sanctuary superintendent. George Galasso gave an update on some of the other aspects of MPR. The staff is currently working on a sanctuary "Condition Report" and hope to have that document completed by February. Dates for scoping meetings are tentatively scheduled for late March, but that is not firm yet. After the scoping meetings, the advisory council will be holding a two-day workshop to review the comments and come up with a set of priority issues to be considered in the MPR process. Once the list of priority issues is decided then working groups will be created to craft action plans based upon the priority issues. These will involve members of the advisory council as well as possibly outside participants. The chairs of these working groups will be either an advisory council member or alternate. Steve Copps commented that both the SAC and the IPC should have prominent roles in developing the MPR and suggested that at some future time, an effort be made to coordinate the two Councils. He further commented that a credible, transparently developed assessment of the sanctuary ecosystem would be important to have prior to scoping and full initiation of the MPR and that the Condition Report may serve such a function. Sanctuary staff agreed to provide a briefing to the SAC on the methodology and public process for developing the Condition Report and discuss its utility going into the MPR.

George indicated that this would be desirable but may not be achievable due to the work that still has to go into the report. A discussion followed on the need to have a document prior to scoping meetings and the role of the advisory council in reviewing the condition report. Carol explained that this is the third condition report being done by the sanctuary program. The report is being sent out to 80 subject area experts for review and comment. Various members and staff discussed the importance of coordination with the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC).

Member Report

Norm Davis gave a history of the regulation of shipping in its waters over the year and how it has evolved over the years. As a result of several oil spills, the legislature created the Office of Marine Safety in 1992 that became part of the Dept. of Ecology in 1997. In 1999, the number of cruise ships visiting Seattle started to increase dramatically. People became concerned about discharges and wastewater discharges from these ships and the impacts on natural resources. As a result, the State of Washington, the Port of Seattle, and the Northwest Cruise Ship Association entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to regulate wastewater discharges. Amy Jankowiak, water quality compliance staff with Ecology's Northwest Regional Office, gave a overview of the state limitations on regulating discharges from vessels and the potential impacts

from such discharges in Washington's waters. The original MOU was signed in 2004. It is a voluntary agreement. Much of the treatment requirements are based upon the Alaskan model. Newly adopted language bans the discharge of sludge in state waters and the entire OCNMS. Graywater and blackwater discharges are still limited just to state waters and don't apply yet to sanctuary waters. The parties meet annually to review the MOU to see if changes are needed. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4th. Most of the vessels have advanced treatment systems on board and are effective in meeting compliance standards when the systems are working correctly. Members asked questions about the nature of discharges in and around the sanctuary, including ballast water exchanges. The MOU only applies to ships entering U.S. ports and those going to Vancouver and other Canadian ports are not bound by it. However, there are indications that at least some of the vessels calling at Vancouver are choosing to comply when they are in Washington waters. The U.S. Navy has told Ecology that their vessels are not discharging while in state waters.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Carol Bernthal reported that the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuary Act was still going through administration review, but that the agency request legislation would likely be introduced in Congress after January. For the national Chairs/Coordinators meeting next year, the site will be again requesting that a tribal member be invited to attend. She will be talking to the IPC to see if they want to send a representative. Carol outlined the "Blue Seas, Green Communities" initiative of the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) and that the program director is requesting each AC to set up a working group or subcommittee to plan a local project. She reported that the Aqua Energy wave energy generation project had a test buoy sink last week off the coast of Oregon due to a failure of a bilge pump. This reinforces the need for OCNMS to require a bond if wave energy buoys are sited within the sanctuary, including the proposed four trial buoys by Aqua Energy. Carol explained that an 85 foot Guardian vessel has been acquired by NMSP at no cost from the Navy. The National Program is evaluating this vessel to see if it is suitable for conducting research in marine sanctuaries. OCNMS has proposed using it for underwater archeological surveys to test its usefulness as a dive operations platform. Carol reported that the sanctuary has been working with Senator Cantwell's office to conduct a "Safe Seas" oil spill exercise in the sanctuary this coming year. So far funding hasn't been forthcoming, so OCNMS will be working with the state on a planned drill for May to see if it can incorporate some of the elements of the Safe Seas drill. In response to a question about the recovery efforts directed at the F/V Milky Way that sunk in the sanctuary three years ago, Carol reported that the insurance money ran out just before they were ready to attempt raising it, so the vessel was left in place and the fuel tanks were capped off.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Area to be Avoided update

George Galasso explained that the sanctuary data from the Canadian VTS on ships tracking in and around the ATBA indicated that we were getting some petroleum barges getting just inside the boundaries of the ATBA. Since the radar data is not that precise, OCNMS wasn't sure whether they were actually inside or outside the ATBA. The Puget Sound Marine Exchange tracking program, based on an automated information system (AIS), is more accurate and covers a larger area of the sanctuary. The AIS system indicated that many of these barges were actually complying with the ATBA. It also revealed that there were vessels violating the ATBA further south that the sanctuary is unable to detect using the VTS radar data is currently uses. Captain John Veentjer of the Puget Sound Marine Exchange gave a computer demonstration of the upgraded capabilities of their ship tracking system using the. He explained that there is a need to insure that vessels with AIS responders are correctly programming them so the information they send is complete and accurate.

Meeting Comments/Future Agenda/Adjourn

Agenda topics for September meeting:	Member report: Steve Copps
	Scoping workgroup report
	Greening initiative workgroup
	AOP (may not be ready)
	Case study for Chairs/Coordinator meeting
	Continue condition report discussion

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.